

Library & Leisure Services

Budget Message

FY 2001/02 and 2002/03

FY 2000/01 has seen the **Department of Library & Leisure Services** implementing new programs and finding alternative funding sources to better meet the needs of the citizens of Seminole County.

The **Parks & Recreation Division** has worked closely with the State to apply for and receive a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant to add 3 lighted tennis courts and a lighted roller hockey rink at Greenwood Lakes Park. Replacement of the boat ramp at Lake Monroe Wayside Park was made possible through the Florida Boating Improvement Program. This program also added lights at the boat ramp and entrance to Cameron Wight Park and has enabled the County to award a grant to the City of Sanford to build a restroom facility at the downtown boat ramp.

Countywide trails have seen increased use with the opening of the Seminole Wekiva and Crossings Trails. This trend is expected to continue with the opening of more sections of the Seminole Wekiva Trail, the Flagler Trail and some connectors in the new fiscal year.

The **Library Services Division** received a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to install self-checkout machines in the branch libraries. This has been a very popular addition to the libraries and enables customers to check out books more quickly. Library usage continues to increase. In 2000 the Seminole County Public Library System ranked first in the state for children's program attendance among library systems with service populations over 350,000.

The **Historical Museum** has received a Special Category grant from the State to fund renovation of the existing structure. This will enable the Museum to become a Historical Complex that will encourage visitors to the County. In the year 2000, visitors to the Museum increased 35% over 1999 indicating the growing popularity of the facility.

In FY 2001/02 major repairs will be made to the Lake Howell Creek Trestle to permanently stop ongoing erosion problems in the area. This is partially funded by a grant from the State Office of Greenways and Trails. In FY 2002/03 Library Services will partner with the School Board to apply for another LSTA grant to implement a Resource Sharing System.

The Cooperative Extension Service continues to maximize the use of volunteers to multiply staff efforts in educating the community. Volunteer hours are projected to increase substantially (34%) in the current fiscal year. Lakewatch volunteers take monthly water samples, Master Gardeners provide consultation and educational programs for homeowners, 4-H Leaders work closely with the youth of the County and Family and Community Education volunteers focus on family issues and work in conjunction with other organizations to network for stronger, healthier families.